

WELCOME 

**State Authorization for Distance Education:
The Future of Reciprocity**

- ▶ Please Note: Audio will be broadcast through the speakers on your computer. If you are having trouble hearing the audio or need assistance contact ReadyTalk at 800-843-9166.
- ▶ The webcast will be 90 minutes in length with at least 30 minutes available for responding to questions.
- ▶ An archive of the webinar will be available on the MHEC website and partner organization websites <http://www.mhec.org/sara-webinars>.

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MHEC
Advancing Education Through Cooperation

**State Authorization
for Distance Education:
The Future of Reciprocity**

August 19, 2014

SARA National, Regional, and State Staff and Leaders


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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 


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Structure of the Webinar 

Total Webinar Time = 90 minutes

Part I:
Update on SARA across the nation

Part II:
Key distance education activities SARA will address

Part III:
Questions and Answers (everyone)



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Structure of the Webinar

- ▶ All of us will be responding to "chat" questions during the webinar to the degree possible.
- ▶ We will follow up with answers to questions we don't address today via a Q & A that will be posted to <http://www.mhec.org/sara-webinars> within a week.
- ▶ This webinar will be recorded and posted to the MHEC website and we will follow-up by sending you a copy of it. It will also be posted to <http://www.mhec.org/sara-webinars>.




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PART I:

Update on SARA Across the Nation


Regional Directors



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General Nation wide update

- ▶ We expect 20 to 24 states to join by the end of 2014
- ▶ We expect 40 to 45 states to join by the end of 2015.



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MHEC Update

State	M-SARA Membership Status
IL	M-SARA staff anticipates receiving state application in Fall 2014. Legal Authority: Senate Bill 3441 . The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is the designated SARA portal agency.
IN	Approved as first SARA state on February 21, 2014. 15+ institutions have joined. Legal Authority: IC 21-18.5-6-12(d) and IC 21-18-12.2-1 . The Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) is the designated SARA portal agency.
IA	Iowa portal agency is working on rules and procedures for portal launch in 2015. Legal Authority: Senate Bill 2271 . The Iowa College Student Aid Commission is the designated SARA portal agency.
KS	M-SARA staff anticipates receiving state application in August 2014. Legal Authority: HB2544 . The Kansas Board of Regents is the designated SARA portal agency.

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MHEC Update

State	M-SARA Membership Status
MI	M-SARA staff anticipates legislation to be introduced in Fall 2014. The Office of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs is the agreed upon portal agency.
MN	M-SARA staff anticipates receiving state application in Fall 2014. Legal Authority: SF 2856 . The Minnesota Office of Higher Education (MOHE) is the designated SARA portal agency.
MO	M-SARA staff anticipates receiving state application in Fall 2014. Legal Authority: SB 699 . The Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) will be the designated SARA portal agency.
NE	Approved as a member state on August 9, 2014. Legal Authority: LB1069 . Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (NCCPE) is the designated SARA portal agency.


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MHEC Update


State	M-SARA Membership Status
ND	Approved as second SARA state on April 3, 2014; approximately 10 institutions have joined. Legal Authority: HB1103 . The North Dakota University System (NDUS) is the designated SARA portal agency.
OH	M-SARA staff anticipates receiving state application in Fall 2014. Legal Authority: HB484 (Section 3333.171) . The Ohio Board of Regents will be the designated SARA portal agency.
SD	Joining W-SARA. Expected application date July, 2014.
WI	M-SARA staff continues to support and provide information to WI educational sector leadership.
PA	M-SARA staff continues to support and provide information to PA educational sector leadership and institutional representatives.

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NEBHE Update




N-SARA Membership Status	
State	
CT	Legislation passed in spring 2014 that requires the Office of Higher Education to develop a plan by January 2015 to join SARA in 2015.
ME	N-SARA anticipates proposed legislation in the 2015 legislative session. SARA has full support from Maine institutions.
MA	Massachusetts' higher education sectors have expressed interest in joining SARA. There are ongoing educational outreach conversations with the Department of Education and all stakeholders.
NH	New Hampshire has legal authority to enter into reciprocity agreements. N-SARA anticipates receiving state SARA application in FY2015.
RI	N-SARA anticipates proposed legislation in the 2015 session. SARA has full support from Rhode Island institutions.
VT	Legislation was introduced and passed in the 2014 legislative session. N-SARA anticipates state SARA application in FY2015.




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NEBHE Update




N-SARA Membership Status	
State	
NJ	New Jersey's higher education sectors have expressed interest in joining SARA and have engaged in conversations with WICHE & NEBHE.
NY	New York's higher education sectors have expressed interest in joining SARA. There are ongoing conversations with the Department of Education and all stakeholders.




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SREB Update




S-SARA Participation Status	
SREB States	
State	Status — Effective August 1, 2014
Alabama	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: Legislation action required prior to participation. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education is expected to be the SARA portal agency.
Arkansas	S-SARA staff anticipate receiving state application by December 2014. Institution Applications Accepted: July 2015. Legal Authority: Regulatory. Acknowledgment of SARA activities in policy expected October 2014. Statewide meeting held April 3, 2014. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education is the SARA portal agency.




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SREB Update




S-SARA Participation Status	
SREB States	
State	Status — Effective August 1, 2014
Delaware	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: Legislation action required prior to participation. (2015 Session) A statewide meeting was held April 11, 2014. The Delaware Department of Education is expected to be the SARA portal agency.
Florida	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: Legislation action required prior to participation. The State University System of Florida is expected to be the SARA portal agency.




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SREB Update




S-SARA Participation Status	
SREB States	
State	Status — Effective August 1, 2014
Georgia	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: May need to pass legislation; study of existing statutes underway. A statewide stakeholder meeting has been held to explore potential issues. The Georgia Board of Regents is expected to be the SARA portal agency.
Kentucky	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: Legislation action required prior to participation. The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education is expected to be the SARA portal agency.




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SREB Update




S-SARA Participation Status	
SREB States	
State	Status — Effective August 1, 2014
Louisiana	S-SARA staff anticipate receiving state application in Fall 2014. Institution Applications Accepted: January 2015. Legal Authority: Legislation (House Bill 433) has passed both the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature with effective date of August 1st. HB433: http://legiscan.com/LA/bill/HB433?utm_campaign=rss&guid=2ns1Ssd77yHOSGXXjXyNmr . The Louisiana Board of Regents is the SARA portal agency.
Maryland	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: Legislation action required prior to participation. (2015 Session) A statewide meeting was held May 6, 2014. The Maryland Higher Education Commission is expected to be the SARA portal agency.




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SREB Update




S-SARA Participation Status	
SREB States	
State	Status — Effective August 1, 2014
Mississippi	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: Legislation action required prior to participation.
North Carolina	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: North Carolina Board of Governors. Agenda item for Fall 2014 meeting. Additional MOUs between agencies. The University of North Carolina, General Administration will be the SARA portal agency.




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SREB Update




S-SARA Participation Status	
SREB States	
State	Status — Effective August 1, 2014
Oklahoma	S-SARA staff anticipate receiving state application by February 2015. Institution Applications Accepted: March 2015. Legal Authority: Oklahoma Statute Title 70 Chapter 50 Section 3206 states the agency may exercise all powers necessary or convenient to accomplish the purposes and objectives of Article XIII-A, per general counsel; this provides sufficient authorization to participate in SARA. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education is the SARA portal agency.
South Carolina	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: Legislation action required prior to participation. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is expected to be the SARA portal agency.




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SREB Update




S-SARA Participation Status	
SREB States	
State	Status — Effective August 1, 2014
Tennessee	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: Legislation action required prior to participation. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission is expected to be the SARA portal agency.
Texas	SARA participation discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. Legal Authority: Legislation action required prior to participation. (2015 Session) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is expected to be the SARA portal agency.



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WICHE Update


State	W-SARA Membership Status
NM	W-SARA staff anticipates receiving state application in 2015. Legal Authority: Legislation was drafted in 2014 but not introduced in the short session. The bill is scheduled to be introduced in the 2015 regular session. The New Mexico Higher Education Department is expected to be the designated SARA portal agency.
ND	Joined M-SARA in April 2014.
OR	W-SARA staff anticipates receiving state application by October 15, 2014. Presentation to Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission scheduled for Sep. 11, 2014. Legal Authority: Oregon Revised Statutes 351.735, 351.755, 351.758 and section 168a, chapter 768. (2014) The Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission is expected to be the designated SARA portal agency.
PICT	Expected application date: unknown



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WICHE Update

State	W-SARA Membership Status
SD	W-SARA staff anticipates receiving state application by October 15, 2014. Legal Authority: Executive Order 2014-09 (Appendix I) and section 1, chapter 96 of the 2014 Session Laws, codified as SDCL §13-48-42. The South Dakota Board of Regents is likely to be the designated SARA portal agency.
UT	State has legal authority to join. State agencies are currently discussing the issue. Legal Authority: Utah Code 13-2-1, 13-34-(103-113), 13-34a-(101-103), 13-34a-(201-207), 13-34a-(301-306). (2014) The Utah Division of Consumer Protection is likely to be the designated SARA portal agency.
WA	Approved by WICHE May 13, 2014. Legal Authority: Revised Code of Washington: 288.85.020(1)(c) The Washington Student Achievement Council is the designated SARA portal agency.
WY	W-SARA staff anticipates receiving state application in 2015. Legal Authority: Will need to pass legislation in 2015. A multi-sector committee is currently drafting legislation for the 2015 session.



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PART II:

Key distance education activities SARA will address

Marshall Hill and Alan Contreras, with comments by Sara Appel



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SARA Key Elements provide Consistency in these areas: 

Institutional academic integrity (accreditation)

Institutional financial responsibility (federal score)


Triggers for "physical presence"

- Experiential Learning Placements***
- Professional Licensure Disclosures***


Data collection and sharing (collection guide due late 2014)

Consumer Protection

- Complaint processing***
- Accountability for institutional catastrophes




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Distance Education Activities 


ALLOWED in other SARA states under SARA

- ▶ On-line and other distance modalities of courses and programs
- ▶ Very limited on-the-ground instruction
- ▶ Clinical/experiential learning activities
- ▶ Marketing for on-line programs*
- ▶ Employ on-line instructors
- ▶ Computer servers


* owing to a technical error, recruiting was left out of the SARA policies. Staff will recommend adding it at the November National Council meeting.



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Limitations on on-the-ground instruction 

- ▶ Up to 6 hours of on-the-ground, face-to-face instruction in a "term" (semester, quarter, etc.)
- ▶ Up to a 20 hour short course




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Limitations on clinical and experiential learning




- ▶ 10 or fewer students at one site at same time
- ▶ New site contracts must not exceed 1 year*
- ▶ Works for all types of programs, not just on-line programs
- ▶ Special comments about programs leading to professional licensure

*Staff will propose an expansion allowing multi-year contracts at the Nov. National Council meeting.




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Comments about professional licensure




- ▶ Institutions can choose between two paths with regard to professional licensure notification requirements:

Option 1
Notify the student that the institution's program *does* or *does not* qualify the student for licensure in her/his state of residence, or...




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Comments about professional licensure



Option 2
Notify the student that the institution *does not know* whether the program to which the student has applied qualifies the student to pursue licensure in her/his state of residence *and* provide the student with the contact information for the appropriate licensing agency in her/his state of residence.



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Comments about professional licensure



- ▶ The notification to the student needs to be **directly** to the student **early** in the application or matriculation process.
- ▶ It can be in the form of a list of state licensing agencies, but it cannot be a referral to web sites. The contact information for the student's home state licensing authority must be provided specifically and directly to the student.



The student complaint process under SARA



- ▶ Must be easy to access by student and link to the SARA state-level complaint process
- ▶ All complaints must go first through the institution's internal complaint resolution processes
- ▶ The SARA complaint process only covers interstate offerings by SARA participant institutions. It does **not** replace any complaint processes required by state or federal law that are applicable to in-state activity or non-SARA interstate activity



A compliant complaint ...




Besides the obvious information that needs to be collected to process a student complaint, there are some essential assertions that need to be included:

- ▶ Direct the student to go through the institutional complaint process first.
- ▶ Let students know what kinds of complaints can and cannot be reviewed.
- ▶ Complaints cannot be anonymous.



A compliant complaint ...

- ▶ Have a statute of limitation.
- ▶ Provide an estimated timeframe for a response.
- ▶ Close with an affirmation statement which also allows the SHEEO/Portal Agency to share information with the institution in question to complete the investigation (includes the SPA of the student's home state, the regional compact, and NC-SARA)



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A compliant complaint ...

Types of complaints, when, and when they are and are not eligible to be heard:


Complaints that might rise to the state portal agency if unresolved: recruiting/marketing practices, credit transfer, violation of C-RAC guidelines

Title IV/Student Financial Aid complaint: directed to the USDE

Grade disputes remain at the institution and cannot go to SARA

Student conduct disputes remain at the institution and cannot go to SARA

Disability accommodations/compliance: directed to OCR
Discrimination: directed to OCR



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A compliant complaint ...


Types of complaints

- ▶ Accreditation
- ▶ Change in degree plan/requirements
- ▶ Disability
 - Campus ADA Compliance
 - Reasonable Accommodations
- ▶ Dismissal
 - Academic
 - Conduct
 - Financial Aid




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A compliant complaint ...



Types of complaints

- ▶ Financial Aid
 - ▶ 5.1 Disbursement issues
 - ▶ 5.2 Federal grants
 - ▶ 5.3 Federal loans
 - ▶ 5.4 Refund issues
 - ▶ 5.5 State grants
 - ▶ 5.6 State loans
 - ▶ 5.7 Private grants
 - ▶ 5.8 Private loans



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A compliant complaint ...




- ▶ Grades
- ▶ Post-graduation job opportunities
- ▶ Probation
 - Academic
 - Conduct
 - Financial Aid
- ▶ Quality of education
- ▶ Recruiting/marketing practices
- ▶ Release of transcripts




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A compliant complaint ...



- ▶ Transfer of credits
- ▶ Withdrawal Process
- ▶ Other



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PART III:

Questions and Answers

The Whole Gang


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HELPFUL LINKS

- ▶ National accreditation
http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg6.html
- ▶ Financial responsibility
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/about/data-center/school/composite-scores>
- ▶ Program Integrity Rules
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-10-29/pdf/2010-27395.pdf>
- ▶ DOD (has complaint process requirements)
http://www.militaryonesource.mil/voluntary-education?content_id=274604

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Where to look for licensing agencies and information


- ▶ National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC):
http://www.nasdtec.net/?page=State_Directory
- ▶ National Council of State Boards of Nursing:
<https://www.ncsbn.org/4841.htm>

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More Information? 

- ▶ NC-SARA website: www.nc-sara.org
- ▶ Regional Education Compacts:
 - MHEC - <http://www.mhec.org/sara>
 - NEBHE - <http://www.nebhe.org/programs-overview/sara/overview/>
 - SREB - www.sreb.org/sara
 - WICHE - <http://www.wiche.edu/sara>

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Information on Professional Licensure 

The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) maintains a directory of links to the certification/licensure agencies in each of the 50 states, plus some provinces in Canada and a few of the US territories. The directory of links to the certification offices can be found at:
http://www.nasdtc.net/?page=State_Directory

For Nursing, don't forget that the National Council of State Boards of Nursing created this nice resource for baccalaureate programs and distance education:
<https://www.ncsbn.org/4841.htm>

Clinical psychology
<http://www.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3355>
<http://www.asppb.org/>

Physical Therapy
<http://www.fsbpt.org/Licensees.aspx>
<http://www.abpts.org/home.aspx>
<http://www.apta.org/licensure/>

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Information on Professional Licensure 


Occupational Therapy
<http://www.nbcot.org/>
<http://www.nbcot.org/state-license-info>

Chiropractic Medicine
http://www.nbce.org/about/certification_licensure/
<http://www.fclb.org/boards.aspx>

Osteopathic Medicine
<http://www.nbome.org/>
<http://www.osteopathic.org/osteopathic-health/about-dos/do-licensing/Pages/default.aspx>
<http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/development/aoa-board-certification/Pages/default.aspx>

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Information on Professional Licensure




Sports and Recreation Management
<http://www.nirsa.org/wcm/>

Paramedic/EMT
<https://www.nremt.org/>

Social Work
<http://www.socialworkers.org/>
<http://www.socialworkers.org/credentials/default.asp>
<http://www.socialworklicensure.org/articles/social-work-license-requirements.html>
<http://www.aswb.org/licensees/>

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